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NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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The Office of Air Resources offers an opportunity for public comment regarding its proposal to approve Dominion Energy Manchester Street, Inc.'s (Dominion) application for a minor modification to its current major source permit (RI-PSD-4) and its current operating permit (RI-22-02). The requested modification is to allow discretionary burning of low sulfur fuel oil at Dominion's electric power plant in Providence.

Dominion's current permit limits fuel oil burning to that needed to maintain oil system readiness and times when natural gas is unavailable. Discretionary burning of fuel oil is not allowed. The maximum sulfur content of the fuel oil is currently limited to 3000 parts per million (ppm) by weight.

The requested modification would allow Dominion to burn fuel oil at their discretion. The quantity of fuel oil burned would be limited to 6,615,000 gallons during any 12-month period. This would allow approximately 10 days of operation at the facility's maximum capacity. DEM would also limit the potential annual emission increase in nitrogen oxides emissions to 24 tons in any 12-month period.

Air quality dispersion modeling conducted in support of the application demonstrates that the predicted air quality impacts of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter, when burning fuel oil, are less than the significance levels in DEM's Air Pollution Control Regulation No. 9. To ensure that the air quality impact of sulfur dioxide emissions are less than the significance levels, the maximum sulfur content of the fuel oil burned would be limited to 500 ppm by weight and sulfur dioxide emissions would be limited to 63.8 lbs/hr from each of the facility's three combustion turbines and 3218.4 lbs/day from the three combustion turbines combined.

Continuous emission monitors would be used to measure emissions of nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide to ensure that Dominion is in compliance with the nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide emission limitations.

The Office of Air Resources has reviewed Dominion's application for a minor modification to its current permit. This application details the air quality modelling and other analyses performed, as well as the equipment and procedures proposed to be used to comply with applicable state and federal air pollution control rules and regulations. The Office of Air Resources has determined that if the facility is operated in the manner described in the application, it will comply with applicable state and federal air pollution control rules and regulations. Therefore the Office of Air Resources is proposing to approve Dominion's application for a minor modification to its current permits. The Office of Air Resources has prepared a draft permit for public review and comment.

The public comment period for this draft permit will begin today and continue until 9 June 2006. A public hearing for interested persons to appear and submit written or oral comments on the draft permit will be held if requested by ten (10) or more persons, or by a governmental subdivision or agency or by an association having not less than ten (10) members. The Department will also hold a hearing if it believes there is a significant degree of public interest in the proposed action. Any interested person may request that a public hearing be held. Any person who requests a public hearing must state the issue proposed to be raised in the hearing. If a public hearing is held, a public notice will be published announcing the date, time and place of such hearing.

Written comments, to be considered part of the administrative record, must be submitted during the public comment period. Written comments must be sent to the Office of Air Resources at the address below and received no later than 4:00 PM, 9 June 2006, at which time the public comment period will close. If a public hearing is held, the public comment period will remain open through the date of the public hearing and may be extended by the hearing officer.

Department of Environmental Management
Office of Air Resources
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908-5767

The draft permit and supporting documentation may be viewed during normal business hours (8:30 AM to 4:00 PM) at the Office of Air Resources. For a copy of the draft permit or for more information contact Douglas McVay at 401-222-2808, extension 7011. A copy of the draft permit is also available for viewing or downloading on the DEM website (www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/air/demsoil.htm).

The Department of Environmental Management building is accessible to those with disabilities. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodation should contact the Office of Air Resources at TCDD (401) 222-4462 or (401) 222-2808 at least three business days prior to the hearing.

Signed this 4th day of May 2006

Stephen Majkut, Chief
Office of Air Resources

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